GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:408
ANSWERED ON:28.02.2008
DRILLING ACTIVITY IN CBM BLOCK
Gadhavi Shri Pushpdan Shambhudan

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has not taken any steps to start the drilling activity in the Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Block awarded to it in the State of Gujarat in 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government of Gujarat has submitted a proposal to induct a third partner for exploration of CBM Block in order to get the production started at the earliest; and

(d) if so, the decision taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) & (b) The exploration activities in the CBM Block BS(3)-CBM-2003/2 were initiated by ONGC after obtaining license for the acreage on 10.09.2004. 8 Core holes and 2 Test Well locations were firmed up. A smaller rig was planned for drilling core holes to reduce costs. An experienced Company, namely, M/s MECL was engaged by ONGC for initial drilling. Due to technical problems, they failed to achieve the target. In place of M/s MECL, M/s Quipo, a mobile drilling rig was hired by ONGC on 8.8.2006. ONGC has completed drilling activities in the Block by 16.8.2007 within the extended period of contract.

(c) & (d) On 14th June, 2006, Principal Secretary, Energy& Petrochemical Department, Government of Gujarat had requested for induction of a third partner to expedite exploration activity and complete the minimum work programme (MWP) well in time. However, ONGC had communicated to Government of Gujarat that they have hired a mobile drilling rig to complete the MWP. ONGC has also completed the MWP within the extended time.